

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8913

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6299

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, PFOR

SUBJECT: MOBUTU ASKS FOR NGUZA MEETING WITH SECRETARY

REF: A) KINSHASA 6287; B) STATE 178439

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA TELEPHONED ME THIS AFTERNOON, JULY 26, TO SAY THAT HE HAD TALKED AGAIN WITH MOBUTU ABOUT HIS PROPOSED MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY (REF A) AND THE DESIRABILITY THAT IT BE ARRANGED IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO UNDERCUT ZAIRE'S POSTURE AT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE. NGUZA SAID THAT AT THE CONFERENCE HE INTENDED TO MAKE MAJOR PITCH FOR RETURN TO STRICTER DEFINITION OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND, AS NECESSARY, TO CRITICIZE COUNTRIES CALLING THEMSELVES NON-ALIGNED WHO WERE IN FACT FORMALLY ALIGNED WITH GREAT POWER BLOCS. NGUZA FELT THAT HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE USG IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE CONFERENCE MIGHT WEAKEN HIS CASE. HE THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT HE VISIT WASHINGTON A FEW DAYS EARLIER (DURING PERIOD AUGUST 7-12) IN ORDER TO ENABLE HIM TO RETURN TO KINSHASA FOR A FEW DAYS BEFORE GOING ON TO COLOMBO. TO FURTHER MINIMIZE ANY ADVERSE PUBLICITY, HE SUGGESTED THAT HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON BE BILLED AS A GOOD-WILL VISIT TO DELIVER GREETINGS FROM ZAIRE ON OCCASION OF US BICENTENNIAL.

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2. I EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF NGUZA'S CONCERN AND SAID I WOULD

CONSULT FURTHER WITH THE DEPARTMENT. I REITERATED MY UNCERTAINTY REGARDING THE SECRETARY'S PLANS DURING THAT PERIOD, BUT PROMISED TO GET BACK TO NGUZA AS SOON AS I HAD SOME WORD FROM HIM.

3. COMMENT: NGUZA'S CALL UNDERSCORES ATTENTION GOZ IS GIVING TO THIS MATTER. WHILE I THINK NGUZA HAS A POINT IN WISHING TO AVOID CHARGES THAT ZAIRE IS DOING US BIDDING AT NAC SUMMIT, I BELIEVE THAT MOBUTU CLEARLY REGARDS THAT CONSIDERATION AS SECONDARY TO MAINTAINING US SUPPORT AND THAT TACTICALLY HE VIEWS PRE-SUMMIT PERIOD AS BEST TIME TO REMIND US OF HIS PRESSING NEEDS. AS FOR OUR OWN INTERESTS, I BELIEVE SECRETARY'S AGREEMENT TO SEE NGUZA BEFORE THE SUMMIT WOULD INDUCE HIM TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE AT COLOMBO ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US (KOREA, PUERTO RICO) THAN MAY OTHERWISE BE THE CASE. IN THIS RESPECT, I NOTE FROM REF B THAT DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO SEND SPECIAL MESSAGE TO HIGH-LEVEL OF GOZ PRIOR TO SUMMIT. ASSUME THAT IN FORMULATING THAT MESSAGE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ITS PROPOSED RESPONSE TO MOBUTU'S REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS.
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